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LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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CRAIG SUPPORTS COMPENSATION BILL FOR DESTRUCTION BY WOLVES

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig is advocating legislation to provide compensation to landowners in Idaho and two other Western States for livestock losses they sustain from attacks by gray wolves and other predatory species.

Craig, a strong opponent of the Department of Interior's decision in the 1990s to introduce wolves into Idaho, said it is now up to the federal government to manage them. "My attitude towards wolves has not changed, but we must build a balanced plan of management that keeps our domestic livestock industry as whole as possible, while having to accept the presence of the wolf," he said.

Craig is co-sponsoring S. 2875, the Gray Wolf Livestock Loss Mitigation Act of 2008, to provide grants through the Department of Interior to Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and the Tribes to support landowners both in preventing livestock predation and compensating them for any livestock losses

"Our greatest problem is that up until now, the wolf has known no predator," Craig said. "As a result, domestic livestock grazing of all forms is taking a heavy hit as is all our wildlife that is prey to the wolf."

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Craig routinely has secured money for Idaho for wolf management, including compensation for losses caused by wolves.

"I'm extremely proud of the State of Idaho and the cooperative effort of our management plan by ranchers, public lands interests, environmental communities and pro-wolf interests," Craig said.

The Gray Wolf Livestock Loss Mitigation Act of 2008 was introduced in April by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) and is also cosponsored by Senators John Barrasso (R-WY) and Max Baucus (D-MT). The bill was the subject of a hearing late Wednesday by the Senate Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee, on which Senator Craig serves.